



Governor Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
San Wong, Director

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **COMMISSION OF ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS (CAPI)**

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2018

Time: Noon – 4:00 PM

Location: Riverside Park

1301 Riverside Boulevard, Sioux City, IA

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Ben Jung, Chair – *West Des Moines*

James Suong – *Des Moines*

Karlai Thornburg – *Ames*

Peggy La – *Sioux City*

DHR Director San Wong – *Ex Officio*

#### **Absent:**

Michelle Yoshimura-Smith – *Des Moines*

Ritu Gurung - *Davenport*

Suresh Basnet – *Cedar Rapids*

#### **DHR/CAS/API Staff:**

Tina Shaw, Executive Officer for Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs/CAS

#### **Public Attendance:**

Members of the Chinese, Filipino, Lao, Korean and Vietnamese community visited with CAPI as part of its 'listening session' concurrent with the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Siouxland Asian Festival. A DHR resources table drew people to learn more about the work of the Commission and programs provided by DHR.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Jung called the business portion of meeting to order at 2:05 PM. Commissioners Jung, La, Suong, Thornburg, and Director Wong present. Absent: Basnet, Gurung, Yoshimura-Smith. Quorum present.

#### **II. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

Jung motioned, seconded by Suong to approve the minutes from the 5/12/18 meeting. Unanimous consent. **Motion carried.** Minutes will be posted to the DHR-CAPI website.

### **III. Announcements & Miscellaneous**

#### **A. Commissioner Reports**

Jung commemorated this meeting to former CAPI Commissioner George Sayavong who succumbed to cancer last fall. Sayavong, from Sioux City, was a founder of the Siouxland Asian Fest and well-respected member of the community who worked with at-risk youth at the Sanford Center. George's public service includes 10 years of volunteered time to CAPI to represent APIs residing in Western Iowa. Jung stated that George's memory is with us today, and he would be pleased, proud to know CAPI held its meeting in Sioux City.

Chair Jung, also CAPI's DHR Board Representative, asked Director Wong to include the cross-cutting topic of the 2020 US census to the next Board agenda for discussion and action. DHR has two remaining Executive Board meetings this year. Wong concurred with Jung's assessment and will add it to the upcoming June 19 agenda.

Wong stated meetings such as these, where the Commissions travels to where the communities are located, are meaningful to the Department's relationship-building work throughout the state.

La has been one of the lead organizers for the event for the past seven years and explained the history and active Asian communities in the Siouxland area. She noted this event would not have been possible without the vision and sweat equity of George Sayavong and all those who knew and respected him. La described the vendors present and their reach into the Asian community. Attendance continues to grow annually, and she is always seeking feedback to improve it. Youth have become very involved and are a big part of the planning considerations.

Several elected officials attended representing the state, city, school board, as well as the city's police department, human rights and economic development office.

Suong recapped CelebrAsian 2018 held over the Memorial Day weekend in Des Moines and described his participation and that of the Khmer Krom Association of Iowa. Suong noted the high level of interest from his community to be more visible and plans to visit some Khmer families residing in the Sioux City area following this meeting.

Thornburg provided an update on an Ames City initiative lead by Iowa State University and the Mayor of Ames to work with area employers. She will send Shaw more information regarding the effort.

#### **B. Office Report**

##### **1. Cedar Rapids Asian Fest: July 28 at McGrath Amphitheatre**

Shaw circulated the event flyer and will plan to attend the event and host a DHR resources table like that at today's event. Shaw asked if there is interest by CAPI to also attend and host a similar 'listening session.' Jung and Wong noted they will be in that part of the state around

that time and will check their schedules. Other CAPI members asked that it be included in the next scheduling email. Shaw will send out options for the next meeting date and location.

## 2. Central Iowa Global Summer Soccer League

Shaw explained the inspiration for this experimental pilot project for the Des Moines metro: inability of immigrant and refugee groups to secure a field for games coupled with lack of summer programming for high-school age youth. These gaps were confirmed by many advocates and law enforcement that summer was a tough time for older youth. The aim of the program is to provide the Des Moines and greater Central Iowa community with a competitive and fun high school-aged youth soccer league during the evenings, with added emphasis on outreach to underrepresented immigrants, refugees, as well as girls. The league will play on Thursday and Friday nights throughout the month of July. Collaborative partners include: Des Moines Public Schools, Kick It Forward, NW Soccer League, Genesis Youth Foundation, Des Moines Police Athletic League and the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

## 3. Data Report

Shaw explained the current RFP for a data project underway by DHR to develop a Status Report for the populations served by DHR. Wong elaborated further that the data is essential in determining the Department's short and long-term strategic direction.

## 4. CAPI Election

Shaw explained that CAPI agreed to host an office-holder election following the installment of the two new commissioners which transpired in mid-May. The question was posed to when this election should take place.

Discussion followed, and Shaw and Wong will reach out to the two newest commissioners, Ritu Gurung and Suresh Basnet, to apprise them of upcoming elections and other business.

## 5. Future Multicultural Healthcare Speaker

At the Governor's Conference on Public Health Conference held in April, Shaw met a public health professional who is well-versed on disparities in health care delivery to certain populations. Shaw asked CAPI to consider this individual to speak at a future meeting since healthcare is among the five-point, three-year plan of public policies to effectuate for the API population. Wong explained that due to budget decisions there is no longer an Office of Multicultural Health with the Department of Public Health, and it is preferred that any speaker on the topic address all CAS commissions. Wong added that Dr. Shah of Broadlawns Hospital also be invited to speak to the Commissions.

## 6. EducAsian Initiative

The initial draft plan written jointly with Vinh Nguyen of Des Moines Public Schools will be revised to include a more effective format to include a short series of hands-on site visits for students and parents to visit apprenticeship programs and community colleges, along with a

guided tour provided by the college or employer. Nguyen is pulling together a community stakeholder conversation slated for June 26. A revised plan, piloted for Des Moines inclusive of community input, will be submitted to CAPI upon its completion.

**V. Community Listening Session concurrent with Sioux City Asian Festival**

*[Held concurrently with the Commission meeting.]*

**VI. Next CAPI meeting**

The next meeting date and location has yet to be established.

**VII. Adjournment**

Jung motioned, seconded by Suong to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 PM. Unanimous consent.  
**Motion carried.**